

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 3-7 are currently amended.

Claims 2, 12, and 13 are canceled.

Claims 3-7 are amended for minor editorial purposes, in view of the cancellation of claims 2, 12, and 13.

No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 3-11, and 14-18 will be pending in the present application.

It is noted that claims 11 was withdrawn in view of a Election of Species/Restriction Requirement. Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder and examination of claim 11, and the indication of allowable subject matter, since the remaining pending claims are allowable in light of the remarks below.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 1-10 and 13-17 as obvious over Lin et al. (US 5,292,590) in view of Ikeda et al. (WO 2002/092643); and claim 18 further in view of at least one of Liu et al. (US 5,280,817) and Weston et al. (US 5,879,488) are obviated by Applicants' perfection of the priority of the present application.

In particular, Applicants have submitted herewith an English translation of the priority application JP 2002-329149, filed November 13, 2002, which antedates the publication date of the Ikeda et al. reference.

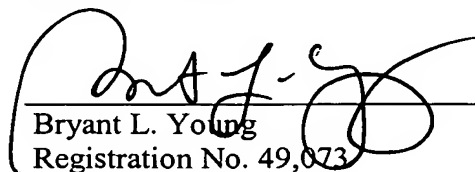
The English translation of the priority application JP 2002-329149 includes a statement by the translator that the translation is true and accurate. Moreover, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are supported by the disclosure of the priority application. Therefore, the reference is no longer be available as prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon


Bryant L. Young
Registration No. 49,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)